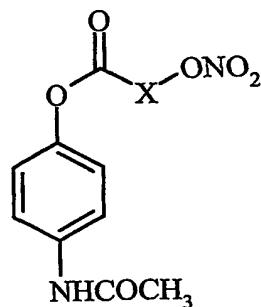


## CLAIMS

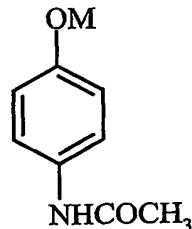
1. A process for preparing a compound of the following formula (I):



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(I)

wherein X is a straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylene chain,  
said process comprising reacting a compound of the  
10 following formula (II):



(II)

wherein M is a hydrogen atom or a cation of an alkaline or  
alkaline earth metal, an onium cation with a compound of  
15 the following formula (III):



wherein Y is OH, Cl, OCOOR, OCO-X-COY wherein R is a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>  
20 alkyl and X is as defined above.

2. The process according to claim 1 wherein X is a straight  
or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl chain.

3. The process according to claim 1 wherein X is a propylene chain.

4. The process according to claim 1-3 wherein Y is OH and M 5 is a hydrogen atom.

5. The process according to claim 4 wherein the reaction is carried out in aprotic dipolar solvents, in the presence of a dehydrating agent selected from: dicyclohexylcarbodiimide 10 (DCC); or DCC and an aminopyridine; Amberlyst-15; diethyl azodicarboxylate and triphenylphosphine.

6. The process according to claim 1-3 wherein M is Na or K and Y is Cl.

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7. The process according to claim 6 wherein the reaction is carried out in dipolar aprotic solvents selected from terahydrofuran, dioxane, tert-butyl methyl ether.

20 8. The process according to claims 1-3 wherein M is an onium cation and Y is Cl.

9. The process according to claim 8 wherein the onium cation is selected from tetralkylammonium or 25 tetralkylphosphonium and the reaction is carried out in aprotic solvents selected from toluene, chlorobenzene, tetrahydrofuran, tert-butyl methyl ether.